Conformity

ACCORDING TO

CANON

JUSTIFIED;

AND THE

Rew May of Poderation

REPROVED:

A.

SERMON

Preached at EXON, in the Cathedral of St. Peter, at the Visitation of the Right Reverend Father in God, Anthony by Divine permission Lord Bishop of EXON.

BY WILLIAM GOULD.

LONDON,

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1162:90 Divini day land bel size BY LILLIAN GODEN. Lekbox H Toll , ... Track the Y ! .. to his man, threid his in Ex a beauty.

The Epifile Dedicator

To the Right Reverend Father in GOD, Authory by Divine permission Lord Bilhop of Exch.

Right Reverend Father in Sol you good on the GOD, and my ever-Ho-

Twee an unpurdonable affront to your Lordibip, to publish to the World, that you have laid a command upon me to be thus publique; for I muft declare that I had not the same injunction to frim this Sermon, that I bad to Preach it; but it was partly done to gratify the importunity of the Regular Sons, partly to stop the mouths of the malicious enemies of the Church of England : The one zealously pretended it might be someway useful to recover, and promote that indisputable Obedience which is due to our Ecclesiastical Constitutions; the other cried it down with noise, and clamour, and calumnies; which (with men of their Character and Complexion) drowns all the force

The Epistle Dedicatory.

force of reason and demonstrations (not to mention the moderate Conformist who had two impregnable arguments against the following Discourse, the preheusinence of Diotrephes, and the interest of Demetrius.) But, my Lord, however this Sermon be entertained, I am happy in the opportunity, of thus openly prosessing my self.

obedient Servant, and

Kenne Devon, Sept. 28. 1674.

William Gould.

Sul more ful of morted offer

and calumnites; milicib (2.12) Charofice and Complexion) ness all Premilles, could ever declare

ant tall Contemp smoldes

Conformity according to Justified,

1 COR. 14. 40.

Let all things be done Decently and in Or-

HAT men pretending a tender Conscience should have Estrich-stomachs, and digest Iron rather than Obedience, esteem a Surplice more criminal than Schism, and Sedition less culpable than Ceremonies; plead for compassion from the weakness of their Brains, when they have a stubbornness in their Necks, which will not bow to any Regular Constitutions: This is at once so ridiculous and mischievous an Impiety, as puts all Hyperboles to a nonplus. Who (but a Refractory Non-conformist) One who adheres to his own Conclusion in defiance

fiance to all Premisses, could ever declare (by his publique practice). That the Whore and the Beaft are more nearly allied to the Order and Decorum of my Text, than Sacriledg to the late thorow godly Reformation, or Witchcraft to Disobedience ? But these are not the only perfecutors of this best of Reformed Churches: We have a fort of men, who are neither for Liturgy nor Directory, Canon nor Covenant; part Churchmen, and part Schismatical; having one Leg for a Tub, and another for a Pulpit, one Hand subscribing to separate Worship, and the other to the Church of England; fuch who conform to the Benefice (not to the Canons) and (Pope-like) cancel all their folemn Obligations to the Laws, and give themselves a pardon, and dispensation, for their barbarous Irregularity against the Ecclesiastical Constitutions: Ex animo (in their Subscription) fignifies Lukewarmness, and Neutrality; an unfeigned Affent and Confent is a deep Hypocrifie; Decently, is a compliance with a faction, and k42 1450 according

ing to moderation, and (too frequently)

according to contribution .---

Now we have not the Title of precious Soul-fearching Ministers, unless we fell Divine Worship to accommodate our Interests, and add a precious breach of all our promises and engagements, to the utmost height of all Sacriledg and Prophaneness: He is your only Man of Moderate Principles, whose Conscience is a Composition of Five precious Ingredients; the Pride of Diotrephes, the Interest of Demas, the Treachery of Judas, the Hypocrifie of the Pharifees, and the Disobedience of Devils: Such with whom to pray by the Purse is to pray by the Spirit, who expose to sale their Duty and the Laws, at the despicable pension of a few Ignorant Zealots, who call themselves Saints before they are Christians, and are Heirs of Heaven without the Civility of Heathens, or the Morals of Infidels; These are your blessed Episcopal Covenanters, Canonical Comprehenders, Clergy Merchants, and Regular Renegadoes, whose very Character is Nonsence and

and Contradictions: It is from their Indevotion, Irreverence and wilful Omissions (as if some offensive vapours did ascend from our excellent Devotions) that the people feldom enter some of our Oratories, till the Air be first purged, and cleanfed, and made clear and free to breath in by the Ravishing Meeter of Sternhold and Hopkins. These are your powerful men of God, described by Tert. de Tertullian of old, Qui simplicitatem volunt cont. Hz. effe prostrationem discipline, cujus apud alios curam lenocinium wocant--- The Church hath a Cuftom to prescribe the Laws of Order, relating to Divine Worship, and these have a Custom that they be not observed. Their Religion confifts in the overthrow of Church-Discipline and Goverment, and their Moderation is a wilful Omission of the Rites and Offices of the Church of England: It is with these men (as with Servilius in Rome) Medium se gerendo nec plebis vetuit odium, nec apud patres gratiam iniit. Thus these please neither the Church nor the Schilmatick; --- not the Last (because

not

not wholly Irregular) nor do they act according to the Canonical Precepts of their Mother, because all things are not done decemly and in order. Calvin (who with fome is of more Authority than all the Fathers) calls the Text the Canon of Canons, giving life and efficacy to all our Ecclesiastical Constitutions .-- Regula est ad quam omnia que ad externam Ecclefie Politiam Spectant exigere convenit. The Learned Dr. Hammond observes, That upon these Two all Uniformity is built, rendring the first --- according to Custom, (Custom being the Rule of Decency) and the other words according to Appointment (viz.) of the Governours of the Church of God: The Learned Bp. Davenant (on Col. 2. 5.) (where we have the same word for order as in the Text) tells us, It is a Military Term, implying the Church is a well Marthal'd Camp, wherein the strictest Discipline is observed and exercised; It is an Army with Banners (Cant. 6. 9.) and so where this requisite Order of Offices, Distinctions, Ranks, and Files, and Postures are not observed its B 2

(it's in an Army of Souldiers) non Ecclefiaftica Disciplina sed politia Cyclopica est, faith the Reverend Prelate', upon that Text. The Church then is not all Head, nor all Body; no Roman Monarchy, nor Disciplinarian party; no Familistical Community, nor Anabaptiffical Anarchy; but a well-compacted Army of Voluntiers, who have litted themselves by their Baptismal Covenant to live and dye Christs faithful Souldiers, and under the Banner of the Cross, to follow the Captain of their Salvation, the Eternal Jefus. The Lord-Marshals under this victorious General, are the Sovereign Christian Princes; and in the next degree of Eminence, the Reverend Fathers, and Paftors of the Church, who are especially to provide that the God of the Armies of Ifrael, be folemnly worthipped in the beauty of holiness; and that the Rules of Order be observed by all the Inferiour Officers of the Church in their feveral stations--- Hic Ergo que conducant leges tantum abest ut damnemus, ut bis ablatis, dissolvi suis nervis Ecclesias totasque deformari,

formari, ac dissipari contendamus: So Calvin, in the Tenth Chapter of the Fourth Book of Institutions. Order and Decency are the hedges fencing the substance of Religion from all the Indignities of Sacriledg and Prophaneness; as the glorious Land spake quaintly and piously, who became formidable to the Roman Interest, by pursuing the External Decorum of my Text in the English Church.

The general Conclusion (according to most Expositors upon this Text) is briefly

this.

There is a Power in Ecclesiastical Governours, to make Laws, and Canons, and to decree Rites of Order and Decorum, for the External Solemnization of Divine Service, to which all under their Authority, Priests, and People are obliged to yield a regular and a conscientious Obedience. Which I shall briefly and very plainly demonstrate by Scripture, Reason and Experience, Fathers, Councils, Resormed Churches, and the Confession of Adversaries, and so make Application to our selves.

As to the first, I humbly offer Six unquestionable Scripture-Principles, which this Reverend Audience is able to defend against the most Learned and Judicious Nonconformists.

First, The Aposiles intended Unity (as in the known Chapter of Unity the Fourth to the Ephesians) and to preserve Unity, they recommend Order and Uniformity to the Church of Christ, as appears sufficiently from Rom. 15.6. compared with Colossians 2.5. and this Canon of the Text.

Secondly, The Apostles (at the first Preaching of the Gospel) did not establish that Order, which the State of the Church did afterwards require. The rest will I set in order when I come, 1 Cor. 11. 29. Upon which words the Assembly of Divines are as politiquely reserved and silent, as in the case of Sacriledg in their Annotations, ad in the case of Sacriledg in their Annotations, ad in the many pertinet (so Grotius) ad ordinem pertinet Ecclesiasticum (so Parens) Certum est Paulum non nisi de externo decoro loqui (saith Calvin) quod ut in Ecclesia libertate positum est,

ita pro temporum, locorum, hominum conditione, constitui debet-- The Second

Scripture-principle.

Thirdly. The Apostles expected such a Setlement to be made by those to whom they entrusted the Government of the Church : For this cause left I thee in Creet, to fet in order the things that are wanting, or (as the Original) left undone, Titus 1.5. Upon which Walo Meffalinus, or Salmasius (he who called the bleffed Dr. Hammond, Nebulo, for defending of Bishops) he himself does acknowledg, That Titus had an Episcopal Power, at least in the Judgment of all the Greek Fathers; particularly quoting St. Chryfostom, Theodoret, Theophilast and others: (To set in Order the things that are wanting,) que ego ob brevitatem temporis & impedimenta a Custodibus ordinare non potni : (So Calvin and Grotius.) Hence two things are very naturally and genuinely deducible .---

First, That St. Paul (as to External Order, for he omitted no Essentials) had left some things undone in the Church

Church in his own Judgment fit to be afterwards (at Creet) established: Secondly, He committed the accomplishment of these Externals, relating to the Discipline and Decency of the Church to the (at least) Episcopal, some say Archiepiscopal, Titus, as having under him many Bishops; which is the Third Scripture-

principle.

Fourthly, The Apostles gave certain Canons to direct Church-Governours in in fuch Ecclesiastical Establishments, to prescribe fuch things, which (according to the conditions of times and places) should seem most expedient to Order, Honesty, Edification, and Peace; according to 1 Cor. 10.31,32. 1 Cor. 14.26. 1 Cor. 11. 27, 29. and the precept of the Text. Hence Calvin foundly teacheth (his too credulous Profelytes in deeper Myfteries) that fuch Ecclefiastical Laws, and Canons, are not to be effectied as humane Traditions, quia fundata funt in generali lege, Omnia decenter, &c. Whence in his Institutions lib. 4. Cap. 10. He determines concerning kneeling at publick Prayers Prayers in obedience to fuch Church-confititutions, to be a Divine as well as Human Institution; Divine, as sounded in the general Precept, Let all things be done decently and in order: And Human, as framed by Governours according to that general Injunction of the Apostl's: Hence Beza (in Confessione sidei; cap. 5.) all such Laws as to their end and soundation, sunt Divine & Calestes: Which is the fourth Principle of the holy Oracles.

Fifibly, The Apostles gave only general Rules, and fo supposed a Power in the Governours to frame thence particular Rites, consonant with their general Canons. Thence Calvin, non potest baberi quod Paulus bic exigit nifi additis obscrvationibus, tanquam vinculis quibus ordo fervetur. But more plainly Parens, facit Ecclesiæ potestatem de ordine & decoro Ecclesiastico liberis disponendi & ferendi leges: The only question is, Where this Power was placed? (for at this time Kings were not nurling Fathers to the Church ;) for this cause left I thee to set in order, as before exprest, it was lodged in the

the Bishops, and Governours of the Church by the blessed Apostles---which is the fifth Principle consonant with the ho-

ly Oracles.

Laftly (the Five former Principles fupposed) That we ought to obey such orderly Canons is included under obedite prepositis, Heb. 13. 17. There are two words in that Text, who is Kai voisile, Obey and fubmit your felves; The one relating to active and the other to passive Obedience. If Church-Governours do give out Precepts and Directions for the Policy of the Church, or the Decorum, or Order of Divine Service, here obedite prapositis takes place according to the former Principles, and there is a passive Subjection due (called Submiffion by the Cafuifts) where we cannot pay the other active Obedience, but in doubtful Cases, prasumptio est pro Autoritate imponentis, say Divines. And so much briefly for Scripture-Evidence.

2. The Light of Nature and right Reafon doth apologize for this Power in our Ecclesiastical Superiours: This Topique (to (to the great advantage of the cause) Dr. Stillingsleet in his Irenieum, Book the first, the third, fourth, sisth, and sixth Chapters) hath taken out of my hands: He there proves, that the Light of

1. Nature dictates that there be a Society

for the worship of God.

 That this Church-fociety be governed in a decent and orderly manner.

3. That there be a Distinction of Per-

fons, and a Superiority of Powers.

4. That the Governours be reverenced according to their Employments and Offices, and Obedience paid to their folemn Constitutions.

5. Laftly, That every offender do give an account of his actions to fuch Governours, and fubmit to their Cenfures: So far Nature goes, as that learned Man fully demonstrates which is fufficient as to the Second Particular, referring thither (because I cannot add, and will not diminish) all that are curious of satisfaction in the Case before us.

Thirdly, When we exchanged a Charles for an Oliver, a Bishop for a Layelder, elder, the Oaths of Allegiance and Canonical Obedience for Covenants and Engagements, and a Liturgy for a Directory, you know the Consequence, by a sad and dear-bought experience; no fooner were Order and Decency removed from the holy Oratories, no fooner were Priefts and People indulged to their own fancies and conceptions in Preaching, Hearing, Administration and Reception of the Sacraments and Publick Prayers, but immediately we had Pulpit against Pulpit, Altar against Altar, Preaching and Prayer, placed as Antipodes, Ordinance justling out Ordinance, (that to speak with Erasmus) ingeniosa res fuit esse Christianos. Such who never fate at the feet of Gamaliel, stept up into the Chair of St. Paul, the People were taught from the mouth of a Cannon, and the Church swept with the Besom of Destruction: The Weaver became inspired, and had new Lights and glorious Discoveries, the Mechanical Demetrius, a precious dispencer of the Words and Sacraments; and Alexander the Coppersmith could challeng the Reverend

verend Assemblies at Gifts and Experiences. The Souldier undertook to cut the Text, and could as powerfully Preach Swords, and Pray Granadoes, and as devoutly curse Meroz, as any of our Soulfearching Ministers, who first pulled down King and Bishops by the form of Godliness, and the Vertue of Hocus, pocus: (That there might be no want of Labourers) The Common-Reaper thrust his Sickle into the Lords Harvest, and Common Shepherds qualified themselves for the overlight of the Flock of Christ, and the Cloak and Apron Preach'd down Gowns and Universities; and he whose occupation it was to mend the old Shoes of the Prophets, had the possession of Desk and Pulpits, Venting Treason, Nonsence and Blasphemy by the Hour-glass; we had a New-England Medley instead of Decorum and Reverence, and an Amsterdam hotch-porch (as many Religions as Babel had Languages:) instead of Uniformity, and the Beauty of Holiness, we began to number Articles of Religion almost by the Million (as St. Austin faid faid of the Donatists) The Charisma of boldness acted the part of the Gift given by Imposition of hands; and he that could neither Write nor Read (by virtue of Lungs and Impudence) was taught to pray Extempore in the Congregation of the Saints: A Phrenzy became desirable for its Lucid intervals, and it was thought a glorious attainment above others to be besides our selves; our Churches were Garisons to keep out the Sacrifice of Obedience, and its Notaries, while by prophane boldness, pious Nonfence and tumultuary Effusions, men dayly offered unto God the Sacrifice of Fools: We had Stones given us instead of Bread, and amidst perpetual holding forth, suffered a Famine of the Word, and by all men (not diftracted) Divines and Preachers, Scholars and fuch as carried on the Work, were very carefully distinguished, some Oxford-Schismatick petitioned the pretended Parliament, to fend down Ministers to teach the Colledg-Graduates (how to Preach down Learning and Sciences, I suppose) under the

pretence that they stood in need of more powerful Instructers: The progeny of Seds grew too Numerous for any other way of Arithmetick than the Stars of Heaven, or Sands by the Sea-shore for multitude; the Questions of our Creed almost as Numerous as the Letters of it; fuch who boafted Communion with Christ in the purest Ordinances of Worship, banished his Prayer from the Pulpit, and imputed Blasphemy and Atheism to the glorious Form of the Saviour of the World: The Ark of God was a kind of Noahs Ark with us, where the unclean Beafts were herded up together without order or distinction, and the Church (our Mother) once the joy of the whole Earth, equally overwhelmed with grief and confusion. We found ber in the Wood (as the Pfalmift speaks of the Ark of Divine fervice) ftript of all her due Attendants and Solemnities, and the Cathedrals turned to Stables: Where the Sacriledg had fome ingenuity, To give so lively an inftance of the vast difference between Land, the Glorious, and the new Reformers.

formers of this best of Reformed Churches. Tell me now, ye prudential Clergymen (whose Moderation is a constant omission of the holy Rites and Offices of the Church) does not the whole Kingdoms experience proclaim a Zeal for our Canons to be a Zeal according to knowledg? Is it not the Policy and temporal Interest of a Priest (aswell as his indispencible Duty) to obey our orderly Constitutions? Thou (High and Mighty Mafter of the Politicks) When was thy Mother the Eye and Glory of all the Christian Churches? Was it not when the Ark was fetled with a Decent Splendour amongft us? When the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy enjoyed its full Authority and Encouragements? When the venerable Courts of Justice dazled the eyes and brake the hearts of the most insolent offenders? And all the parts of Divine Service performed with that Decorum as is enjoyned by the Canon of the Text (with a folemn Reverence). Since these things are to by experience, lay then afide, (my moderate Brother) this Lukewarm kind

of Temper; set a higher estimate on the Churches Peace and Honour, and contribute to her recovery (to some degrees at least) of the ancient Lustre, By doing

all things decently and in order.

Fourthly, The Ancient Fathers and Councils joyn with Scripture, Reason, and Experience, as to this Power (by me pleaded for from the Text) in our Eclefiaftical Superiors. Thus St. Auftin to Cafulanus, -- in things undetermined in the Word, Mos populi, Dei, & instituta majorum, pro lege Dei tenenda sunt : Hence St. Bernard (Epist. 7.) of things absolutely good or absolutely evil, the Case is Evident; the one must be not done when commanded, the other done though prohibited by Superiors; inter bec funt media quedam, in bis fas non est sensum nostrum sententie prescribere Magistrorum. To both affents the old Tertullian, in his Book De corona Militis, where speaking of kneeling, the fign of the Cross, of standing at Prayers between Easter and Whitsuntide, and many other Rites and Customs of the Primitive Church, Harum & alia-

rum

rum ejusmodi disciplinarum, fi legem expofinles Scripturarum, nullam invenies, &c. Hence thus much is clear from Antiquity, that the Ancient Christians of the purest Ages of the Church were not in bondage to a Scruple, nor frartled at a Ceremony, nor ever said to their Governours, shew us a Text for fuch Rites and Orders; They too well underfrood Christian Liberty and themselves, to throw away their Time, Interest, Peace, and Safety, for the mere Fringes of the Garment of the body of Religion with our peevish, and (withal obstinate) Renegadoes: That conditional Assent and cautionary (though not) absolute Obedience we do owe to our spiritual Paftors and Governors (afbeit we have not express Commission out of Scripture for the very particulars) cannot be denied by any Man in his fenses; for to dispute in such a Case, instead of yielding Obedience, is to declare to the World, that when Christ ascended up on high, his Donation of spiritual Authority was a Donation of Titles without Realities; whereas he that faid, He that refifteth

eth Kings, relisteth God, Rom. 12. The Came Wildom of God (by whom Princes Reign) faid also, He that beareth you, beareth me, and be that despifeth you, defifeth me and him that fent me, Thefe are the Prerogatives of Spiritual Guides, and were never effeemed words of course or formality in the Primitive Church: And the Epiftles of Ignatius (an Apostolical Bishop, vindicated by Vossius, Dr. Hammond, and Doctor Pearson, are an admirable Comment in this Case, upon obedite prapofitis- Be ye subject to the Bishop, as unto the Lord; Reverence your Bishops according unto the precepts of the Apostles; he that acts of his own head without the Bishop is polluted in his Conscience; attempt nothing in the Church against Episcopal Constitutions, are known expressions in the writings of old Ignatius -- But I intend a more particular vindication (under this Topick of Antiquity) of this best of Reformed Churches: First, As to her Imposition of a Liturgy; Secondly, as to the Imposition of orderly Rites, and Thirdly, a Da

Vindication of the Authority also (as Primitive) by which our Canons are esta-

blished .-- Briefly to each of these.

Thus the Fourteenth Canon of the Church of England is truely Primitive——
The Minister shall use the prescribed Forms and Rites in the Common-Prayer-Book, without diminishing in regard of Preaching, or any other respect, or adding any thing in the matter or form thereof.—

1. The Minister shall use the prescribed Forms and Rites, &c. Thus, in Synodo Epnuenfi, in the Order of the Celebration of Divine Offices, the Metropolitical Church was the Standard for the whole Province, to keep the better Decorum in all Sacred Administrations. And in the Fourth Council of Toledo, they declare it confonant with the ancient Canons of the Church, Ut unus ordo orandi & Pfallendi conservetur, nec diverfa sit a nobis Ecclefiaftica consuerndo, quia una fide continemur & Regno; the same Forms, and no other, as the Council of Africa, Canon. 103. The Third Council of Carthage, Canon 231. The Council of Landirea, Canon

Canon 181. And above all the Council of Milevis (Canon 12.) for a sufficient Reason there rendred, Nec alie preces nisi que a Synodo Comprobate dicerentur in Ecclesia, ne aliquid contra fidem aut bonos mores per ignorantiam aut minus findium fit Compositum: So that hence our impofing of Forms upon Priefts and People, is clearly justifiable from the Practice of the Primitive Churches of Christ---It is Recorded of Proclus the Patriarch of Constantinople in his Treatise, and wagedwire The aging sulleggian That St. Bafil first, and afterwards St. Chryfostom, contracted the Liturgy of St. James, that upon the account of mens flothfulness and prophaneness, they might not Nauseate for the. Jength, and so Apostatize from the Apostolical Tradition of Liturgies --- The Liturgy now ascribed to St. James may be denied on good Reasons, yet that St. James made a Liturgy, the Council of Trullo long fince acknowledged, and is at this day by the Greek-Church openly owned and profest; and amongst them to queftion it, were the ready way to be laughed

ed at as eminently ridiculous. The Magdeburgenses have collected from some expressions of Origen, on Jeremiah, That it is without dispute a doubt, that the Christians had Forms of Prayer in the Third Scal. lib. Century. Scaliger, de Émendatione temdit. Ge poram, declares that he had himself seen an ancient Liturgy of Ignatius, who exnev. 1629. horts (by the way) to one Common Prayer, and to one mind in his Epistle to the Magnesians. And what else means Apol 2. Justin Martyr by his dona' sond and exacustar. Tert de Or Tertullian, by his Oratio Legitima & oratione. ordinaria; and by that Form of Praying for the Emperours, at illis foret wita prolixa, imperium securum, senatus fidelis, Apol 30. Exercitus fortis, domns tuta, populus probus, orbis quietus, which some (not improbably conjecture) to be grounded on St. Pauls Charge to Timothy, That Prayers be made for all, then effecially Kings, &c. making it Timothy's cheif care (as Bishop of Ephesus) rightly to Frame and Order the Publick Prayers of the Church. And what else doth St. Cyprian intimate (de Oratione) publica nobis eft & communis

observed with the whole Assembly of Christians Recorded by Ensebins; So that Ensebins whether we consider the use of a Liturgy, de vita constant, we are justified by the Fathers; or the in lib. 4. Imposition of it on the Clergy, particularly with exclusion of their own conceptions, the Church of England herein observes the prudence of the Ancient Councils and Synods (long before Popery was introduced) and so liable to such triffing exceptions from our Puritan Adversaries.

Again Secondly, not to diminish (in regard of Preaching) the Prayers of the Church (the Fourteenth Canon Commands us) and that the Pulpit should not swallow up the Desk, this Auditory is not to be taught, to be the high prudence and politick zeal of the Ancient Churches of Christ. You know that Justyn Martyr faith, when the Reader had done, then the Preacher exhorts (in his Apology) you know that in the primitive times (as now) there was a first and a second Service, the one preceded, the other followed,

the

the Sermons or Homilies; and fo Preaching and Prayer did not shoulder out one another, but walked hand in hand as friends, and not as Antipodes in the holy Oratories. The Sermons anciently came in , post recitationem Evangelii, after the rehearfal of the Goffel, being usually a Discourse upon it; and hence it is an easie collection, that Preaching had its due esteem, yet never so magnified as that the Liturgy should be laid aside to make way for the Sermon. The most eminent Preachers (as Bafil, Chryfostom and others) were Compilers of Liturgies, but could never endure (as is clear by many passages in their writings) that the people should throng more to their Discourses, than to the pure Word of God read in the Church in Divine Service, or to the common Devotions---That was no Musick to the old zealous Saints (the holy Bishops and Priests) which now affords fuch a mighty pleasure to men of moderate principles, the crouding of people to a Sermon, and leaving the Church empty and wast at the solemn Thirdly, Prayers.

Thirdly, (Not only not to diminish on the account of Preaching;) But also in no other respect, faith the Canon aforesaid, nor to add any thing in the matter or form thereof (a Constitution truely Primitive;) for in Ancient times, ever since the ceasing of miraculous Gifts it was never permitted any Presbyters to add to, or detract from the publick prescribed Service, or to make any private Prayers of

their own in the holy Oratories.

There is no footstep of Record or Monument in the Church of God, whereby our Moderate Clergy can make it probable, that in the folemn and fet Affemblies of Christians constantly observed, a Presbyter was ever allowed to utter any thing of his own or others composing, premeditated or extemporary, without the approbation of his Bishop first had in the matter of Prayer (which we now are discoursing of) -- It is an impudent and untrue Affertion (I wonder it could ever enter into any Mans mind) that Minifters may of themselves, curtail or add to the Service prescribed, or modify the Worship

Worship of God. But on the contrary (as Baxter, in his Cure of Church-Divisions, doth well note) no Man questioneth but some Form of Prayer was imposed on the Jewish Ministers of old, and a Form of Prayer taught the Priests, Joel 2. 17. To which I add, fince the Word of God hath given us Forms of Worship, of Praise and Prayer in the House of God; If we will allow the Composers of those Forms to be of Gods own appointment (which cannot be denyed), we have in Scripture too, in concurrence with the Ancient Church, found out some appointed to make Prayers for other Pastors and Churches, to offer up unto God- And we find Titus for this purpose left in Creet to fet in order what was wanting, ad watter & Aufferrier, (So Grotins) Pertinet --- and Timothy is charged with this Office as Bishop 1 Tim. 2. 1. an Order is there given him touching the substance of Publick Prayer to be fetled in the Assemblies of his Jurisdiction, as Master Thorndyke notes and proves in his Treatife, The Service of God in publick Assemblies - in Timotheo mandata

mandata dat Episcopis, so Grotins -- Again in the Impolition of orderly Rites attending on the publick Worthip, it was the stile of old, Si quis presumscrit, si quis contumaciter fecerit, Anathema fit; which is well Englished in our 34th. Article, by Laws established, Whosoever shall (through his private Judgment) openly and wilfully, and purposely break the Rites of Decency and Order enjoyned, shall be cenfured, &c. Such therefore who are in profession Sons of the Church of England, (whose Imposition of a Liturgy and decent Rites, is thus prudentially primitive and moderate) and do wilfully, and ftudioully violate the Orders prescribed, by robbing God and the People of any parts of the publick Worship or Rites thereof, upon the account of Preaching, or the free Prayers of the Pulpit, they do very wickedly. I leave their own Consciences to condemn them till God himself doth; which he will certainly do without a more honest and zealous adhesion to the Regular Constitutions. It would be Ridiculoufly arrogant in me to prove out of E 2 Antiquity,

Antiquity, that the reading of the Litany, the observation of the Feasts and Fasts, Catechizing, visiting the Sick, and giving them their viaticum, the Cross in Baptism, the Rites of Decorum, and the Decent Habits of the Clergy-men, and many other Canons, which this present Audience sufficiently knows to be truely confonant to the ancient Canons and primitive usage: But you must give me leave to say, that these are so far omitted, not out of a prudential, but schismatical, Compliance-Pudet hec opprobria nobis, is too mild a reproof; (like that of Eli to his Sons, It is no good report, ye make the Lords People transgress) Too meek a reprehention to fuch Sons of Corah or Diotrephes; who by a barbarous disobedience to the Laws, indeavour to bring into this Church, tot schismata, quot Sacerdotes.

Consider we again, under this head of the Fathers and Councils, the Authority confirming the present Canons of this Church, and we shall find That also, by undeniable evidence, equally primitive

with the Constitutions themselves.

We have fuch Canons as are treated on by Bishops and Priests, but they do not (with the Westminster-Conventicle of Divines) meet without the Royal Call and Summons, nor fit and act when the King Commands their dissolution (with the Glascow-Assembly of spiritual Layelders) but we own the Kings Power, a parte ante, to convene the Prelates and the Clergy-Representatives, and a parte poft, to oblige their Subjects, by their Confirmation, to a Regular Obedience. A clear primitive Practice, affoon as ever God gave Kings to be Nurfing-fathers to the Church (as is admirably proved by Canfabon, Grotins, Morney Dupleffis, our own Jewel, Field, Whitaker and others, beyond all exceptions: Now where King and Bilhops thus joyn in Ecclefiastical Laws (according to the constant Practice of Christs Church) where Moses and Aaron, the Oaths of Allegiance, and Canonical Obedience meet together to oblige us, there is not now the least pretence for a Man in Orders to despise such Rules as are truely Primitive in themselves; when the

the Canons are treated on by the Episcopal Order, which hath filled our Calendars with Saints, our Histories with Fathers, and Church with Martyrs; and when this Order is subject to Kings, and supported by Moses, and both appointed of God for the Management of the Church under the blessed Jesus, he is neither a true Priest nor Christian that denies obedience.

And here I do, with all duty and fubmission, most humbly beseech your Lordship and all (under you) advanced to any Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, to Countenance the truely-regular Clergy in their cheerful submission to the truly ancient Laws and Canons of this best of Resormed Churches.

When the Schismatick keeps a Faction in pay, and allows Schism a Salary, and gives a pension to the hollow-hearted Judas of moderate Principles to break and divide us, 'tis pitty the Zealous Conformist should want a Benefice, whilest the Enemy thus nourisheth Vipers to eat their way through our Mothers Bowels—(God knows

knows my heart) Tabhominate a private design when I thus speak, as much as a moderation against the Rules of the Church of England. I petition for a poorer fort of Brethren than my felf, for the Priest unbeneficed, who is Ingenuous and Open-spirited, Generous and Devout, and a Lover of the Church of England: And would not the primitive Canons of this Church be rather more than lefs obferved; If fuch an incarnate Seraphin had always the next Living of value in the Churches own gift. If Self-interest should ever creep into a Cathedral, it will first pull down the Honour, and then the Walls. It is not certainly for the peace or fafety of our holy Mother, that any Regular, Confcientious, Learned Priest should spend his time in a discontented Contemplation of his misfortunes, whilest a barbarous Nonconformity without, and Moderation within are furtained with a full and free enjoyment of all Creaturecomforts, in order to the ruining of the best of Churches. This is, I hope, a pardonable digreffion, as confonant with the

the Text, and not repugnant to Antiquity in the Case before us, as tending to increase and support the very little flock, God knows, of the truely zealous for our (no less Ancient than Orderly) Constitutions.

Fifibly, ... To this Power of Ecclesiastical Superiours we have the harmonious affent also of all Reformed Churches. There are two Excellent Books of Mr. Durell entitled, Ecclefia Anglicana adversus schismaticorum criminationes vindicie, and The Church of England not condemned by any other Reformed Churches; both so well known to this Audience, as sufficiently satisfactory in this Particular to all intelligent and unbiaft persons, that they spare me the Labour of any farther Discourse: And indeed our Mother, the Church of England, is fo far Justified against all imaginable rational Opposers, from the publiquely-printed harmony of Confessions (in which book are inferted also the Thirty nine Articles) and by the publick open practice of our neighbour-nations (we not condemning them

them nor they us) that our enemies have recourse to Clamour and Noise, and want only an opportunity by Swords and Pistols to encounter our Reasons and Demonstrations; Club-Law must once again gain that advantage (when occasion offers) which they despair of

by Arguments and Disputations.

They are not for treating like Men, but fighting like Beafts; Men neither to be broke nor to be foftned, all Anvil and Adamant; and Nonconformists in all other Kingdoms, and over all the Christian World, as well as to the Church of England, (as is admirably proved by the Learned Author aforesaid). All the Reformed Churches maintain this Principle, That every National Church hath Power to make Laws for herfelf in outward things, not expresly commanded or forbidden in the Word, and that they may vary according to Times, Places and Persons, and other Circumstances; and not one of them but hath acted according to this Principle in making Laws

different from their Neighbour Churches. I therefore pass to the last Particular (not only Scriptures, Reason, Experience, Fathers, Councils and Reformed Churches) but our Nonconformists and very Dissenters, by their Confessions and Practices, own this Power in Ecclesiastical Superiors, however refractory to our present Constitutions.

And first I cite Calamy, in his Convenant-Sermon; who tells us, That the Covenant is to be taken standing, the head uncovered, and the right hand bare must be list up, which are emphatical Cermonies (layeth the Man of God,) and Significant that we call God to witness, &c. Here I note that there are as many Cermonies in this unlawful Oath as the Church of England, hath in her whole Worship legally authorized, and the Ceremonies are significant too, as well as ours.

2. I cite the preface to the Directory, where the thorough-Reformers thus conclude: We are refolved to lay afide the

Common prayer-book and fet up the Directory instead thereof; where we hold forth what is of Divine Institution in every Ordinance, and other things (not of Divine Appointment) we do hold forth according to the Rules of Christian prudence consonant with the general Canons of the Word of God? But now I demand, By what Law of God or Man have you the Sole Priviledg of thus holding forth? Why may not the Church of England use the same liberty of her Christian prudence, agreeable to the Rules of the Word? dic Quintiliane colorem. If this Priviledg be granted to a Directory, without Law fet up, why not to a Liturgy, legally established? and if granted, the Church of En-Exyd hath thus proceeded in the Liturgy prescribed viz. by Christian prudence, and the Canons of the Word.

3. I cite a (not unlearned-Treatise of the Presbyterian entitled, An Alarum by way of answer to the last warning-peice, where the Authors tell us, That no Man endued with right Reason, but will say

there is a necessity of a Government; if of a Government, then of an Uniformity, else it will be confused: therefore there is a necessity that every man sbould observe such Orders, Time, Place, and Gestures, as the Parliament and Assembly (but why not as the King, Bishops and Clergy?) fball appoint; Very found and good. (It follows) No man that bath any use of Conscience in any thing, but he will acknowledg that he is bound in Conscience to obey the Laws of the Land in things indifferent, and deserves Censure for being turbulent even in matters of Worsbip: But now the Case is altered, the Nonconformists being not in Throne of Government, it is false Doctrine at present in the Church of England,

to his Brethren Brandon and Caryl) cleaves a hair, Let me be bold to tell my Brethren of the Ministry, That (though I deny them to have any Authority against the Word) yet so great is their Authority as Guides and Governors of the Church, in things agreeable to, and but generally de-

termined in the Word, that the want of the knowledg of this Truth bath been the occasion of all the Schisms and Consusions in England; And till we have taught even our godly people, what Obedience is due to there spiritual Guides, the Church of England will never have any good or established Order: I say again, we are broken for want of the knowledg of this Truth, and till it be better known we shall never

be bound up and bealed.

To which if you add the formal Covenant of the Brethren of New England for admittion of Members, even these precious Saints will condemn themselves, or must justify this best of Resormed Churches. Thus I have by Scripture, Reason, Experience, Fathers Councils, Resormed Churches, and the Confessions and Practices of the Nonconformists themselves, plainly proved a Power in Church-governors to make Canons, and decree Rites for the external Solemnity and Decorum, and Order of Divine Service; to which all Priests and People are to yeild Obedience under

under their Government and Jurisdictionquod erat demonstrandum. From the preceeding Discourse I do (as a zealous Brother) reprove my Brethren of moderate Principles, as Commentators, as Casuists and as pretenders to the Politicks; And so with a brief Exhortation to all my reverend Brethren, shall conclude the Discourse.

1. They are abominable Commentators. They shall always fign the Infant baptized with the Cross, (that is to say.) the Children of Conformifts; but the Canon fays not it must be done to the Seed of the righteous: Not marry without Banes or Licence at uncanonical Hours or prohibited times, or without the confent of their Parents or Governors (that is); The Minister shall not do it gratis, but if foundly payd it is no Disobedience against the Canon of the Church. He shall not diminish the Prayers of the Church on the account of Preaching or any other respect (that is to say) unless it be to increase the Salary, or to lengthen the Sermon, for to make way for the freely

freely conceived, Directory-way of canting in the Pulpit. He shall read the Letany on Wednesdays and Fridays every week; Antiphrasis voces tibi per contraria signat .-Canonical Obedience, in omnibus licitis et bonestis, that is, as far as the new Saints will permit, upon whom they depend for a Maintenance: The confirming their Doctrins by Scripture according to Expolition of the Fathers, and their Mothers own Articles; Populo ut placerent quas fecissent fabulas: Whensoever they officiate, to wear the Surplice (that is) if their precious Benefactors do not account the Garment Popish, and take occasion hence to withdraw the Creature-comforts: Not give the Sacrament to any men but fuch as kneel (that is) if the posture be approved by fuch as have Communion with the Lord Jesus in the purest Ordinances. To bid Prayer before Sermon is to pray by the Spirit; and as breifly as conveniently we may, is more or less, half an hour or a full glass, according to the Judgment or contribution of the Saints.

Saints. The Sick shall be prayed for by the Form at the Visitation prescribed (that is) the Parish-clark shall keep the Ticket till the Soul-searcher is in the Pulpit: The same Form to be used in private, unless the Schismatick puts his hand in his pocket and makes a Prefent, and then the case is altered, and the Law not violated. No Man vows Poverty when he fwears to obey the Bishop: But the Man of God can fometimes supererogate; He shall preach one Sermon every Lords day (that is to fay) two at the least; He shall use Catechizing in the afternoon (that is) if the people (et vox populi, vox Dei) had not much rather have a Sermon: And the Desk is unhallowed; It is no Sermon neither, unless it come from the holy Mount: After all, we must have a strain of Sternbold and Hopkins after Sermons for our godly folace, while precious the Man cons over the Heads of the foregoing Discourse; a way of singing and canting which hath neither Law of the Land aor Canon of a Synod to justify its use,

nor any Approbation (upon Record, either of Civil or Ecclesiastical Superiors; but the people love to have it so: By this craft these Men of God have their wealth, and this shall be observed (not required) above all the Churches ancient and laudable Constitutions; thus precious Man Divines for Money, and the small Levite for handfuls of Barley, and pieces of Bread; and turns Spiritual Pedlar to avoid the Statutes of Vagrants, and both sells the Church for a Subsistence, and rebels against the orderly Laws and Constitutions.

Casnist likewise, and then the Commentator will appear to be less ridiculous. With our Brother-Conformists of moderate Opinions, to comply with a Faction against the Church and the Laws, for a benevolence, is to be a Jew with Jews, and a Gentile with Gentiles, and being crafty to take their Money; then they catch the People with guile (as the Apostle did in

the conversition of Souls (admirable Casuists) who cannot (or will not) reconcile St. Pauls two Sentences; Becoming all things to all men, and if I yet please men, I should not be the Servant of fesus Christ; the best Salvo they have is a late Act of Parliament (which being duely executed) It did appear there was no difference between the Purses and the Consciences of Nonconformists; rather than lose an Office of profit, the Conscience was satisfied, that he could communicate with the Church, and kneel at the Eucharist, and was not defiled with the company of Sinners at the holy Ordinance: So that he that gains the Purse gains the Soul of our precious Disfenters; (a use of Consolation to our moderate Casuists). But if this doth not help them, they are certainly loft to all intents and purposes. It must not be, Paul a servant of Jesus Christ (but something else): If such imitate that zealous Apostle who (by omission of known Ministerial Duties) have forseited the Faith

Faith of a Priest, and the Feast of a good Conscience, who subscribe with their hands and fomething besides (which ex animo fignifies in some approved Dictionaries) and yet Pope Interest is fupream over Kings and Bishops, and can dispence with all imaginable engagements to Ecclefiaftical Superiors and Conftitutions. For Sixty years and upwards our present Canons have been obligatory upon us, but these Casuists can tell you that a Custom of Five or Six years (If it let in the Evangelical Graces of profit and ease) can prescribe against the Cufrom aforefaid, and every offender against this New Law, must be called a Hyperbolical Conformist to the Church of England. But I humbly conceive (with fubmission to better Judgments) that for a Priest (after Subscription) neither to obey the Churches Laws, nor to require it of others, to ferve upon his holy Mother all his fordid and degenerous ends, and keep open her bleeding Wounds for his own advantage, and to G 2 turn

flies to the Tents of Enemies) is a Crime that doubles its malignity from the Quality of the Actor, and (if possible) we want a number above the plural, to express so complicated a wickedness.

3. I do as little understand the Politicks of these men, as their Casuistical Divinity, or barbarous Commentaries; what they call a prudential Compliance, is only the want of Courage and Resolution; their Moderation is an open defiance to that Heroical integrity which should speak the Priest a Saint and a Gentleman. It is with these men (as Tacitus said of Fabins Valens Captain to Velleins) utrumq; consilium afpernatus eft, o quod inter ancipitia deterrimum eft, nec providit; It is so with these partial Conformists, they have not Courage enough to embark heartily on one fide, nor Providence enough to escape the hatred of both. It were more politick to take the

advice of Suetonins, Quando non efficias quin alterum habiturus sis inimicum aut socium, Jacienda tunc est alea alterutri adherendum est: Let them be either thorow Conformists or Non-conformists, the middle moderate practice is attended on with an Episcopal Rod executing the Canon against Revolters, and an angry God, who (as he hateth robbery for burnt-offerings.) fo he abhors the Priest that curtails the Sacrifice of Obedience: Nay to add more torment to their lives, there is a Sacrilegious Layman, who believes in his Conscience he may as well diminish the Titles, as the Priest the Service: Wilt thou fue him in the Court of the Bishop, whose Orders thou dost despife? Wilt thou fly to that Law in thy necessity, to which in point of Duty thou haft denyed thy homage? When the same Law puts thy Bread into thy mouth, and the Common-prayer-book into thy hand, Wilt thou Read the Litturgy in the way of Moderation, and take the Lay-man by the Throat for the utteruttermost farthing? Hast thou Considence enough to accuse him of Sacriledg before the Right Reverend Diocesan, when Clodius accusat machos, Catilina Cethegum.

These things duly considered, suffer I beseech you my reverend Brethren, The Word of Exhortation.

I. It is taken for granted, that the reading of Divine Service as *** 1450** If first beseech you therefore to read this Worship with all imaginable Devotion and Reverence; let us be a sort of incarnate Seraphins when we officiate by the Liturgy in the holy Oratories: thus we shall silence the calumny (equally uncharitable and ridiculous) of the Presbyterian Divines, who (in their grand debates) briskly tell us, that an able and holy Ministry flows immediately from Pulpit-conceptions, according to the variety of Subjects and occasions, and that Men are apt to lose a great deal

deal of affection by the conftant use of the fame Forms; let us (with the bleffed Jesus) pray earnestly, using the fame Words; be truly zealous at the Prayers of our Church, and demonstrate that inward fervour by the Text ingulars, and we shall silence these insipid vainglorious Canters, who place all their Religion in their rude impremeditated and tumultuary effusions. The reverend Doctor Fell in his life of Doctor Hammond observes of that Divine (the late glory of the Church of England) that his transport at his Prayer threw him fometimes prostrate on the earth, that his tears would interrupt his Words in the Common Service of the Church; let these men know that revile Liturgy, by our following this eminent Priest in holy fervors, that the Votary (not the Prayer) is in fault, when ever zeal is wanting at the publick Devotions.

2. With Submission to better Judgments, the Canons relating to Diving Service Service would be more carefully observed amongst us, if in Cities, Corporations and the most Populous places, the Ten-pound-Man did not read the Service.

I therefore request that the Searcher, Melter and Establisher of Souls, may read the Prayers of the Church, and that he may not be permitted in the least to curtail the solemn Worship for his own private conceptions; and then the People will begin to consider, with themselves, whether God do not require something else besides Ears and Elbows in the Congregation of the Saints.

3. I do humbly Request that all that Preach Twice every Sunday and forget Catechising, that they would once more Read the Fourty sive Canon, and Fisty ninth Constitution: I must and do openly profess that I understand not the English Tongue, if two Sermons every Lords

Day be equally Canonical with this Duty of Instructing the younger fort in the Churches Catechism, in order to Confirmation.

4. That I may not be misconstrued as Enemy to Preaching, I do freely consent from my heart that every. Minifter with Cure of Souls do herein confult his own prudence : I shall not contend whether once or twice, but I presume the former to be more confonant to the Ecclefiastical Constitutions; but let the Clergy Preach every day of the week provided the old Canon be observed, That every---Preacher in this Province take a special care that they Teach or Deliver no other Doctrines than what is confonant with the Word of God, and Collected thence by the Ancient Fathers and godly Bishops. Unless this ancient good wholesom Rule be carefully put in practice, the Church will be more edified by our Silence than our Sermons.

H

5. What

Letany-days of the Church were Canonically, and Conscientiously observed, amongst us, It would infinitely promote true Piety, the Churches Peace; and I know no pretence against it, but Pride and Interest, Applause and Benevolence, which too frequently cancel all our Vows and Obligations.

6. Let us think the Nation and Church wifer than a particular Prieft, and the Liturgy more weighty than our own Pulpit effusions; and confine our felves to the Canonical way of bidding Prayers with that brevity that the Canon-prayer mentions (God is not taken with the Novelty of our expreffions) but possibly the People is the Idol to which we facrifice, and from whom we expect an answer to our petitions; and then there is some Reafon for a long-winded Cant before the Pulpit-Discourse, because the rabble do admire what is equally ridiculous with themselves.

Lastly, The Seventy sisth Canon must never be forgotten, enjoyning a Regular Life and Conversation; and this joyned, with a publick Spirit that abominates a compliance against the Rules of Conscience and Honour, is absolutely requisite to the doing all things decently and in order.

FINIS.